ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. H. BUSTEED,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.S.A., (London),

FOR THE

Wangford Rural District,

For the Year 1920.

BECCLES:

NOBBS & GOATE, PRINTERS, SMALLGATE; AND AT LODDON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AS TO THE

Sanitary Condition of the Wangford Rural District,

During the Year 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of the
COUNCIL OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WANGFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my report for the year 1920.

The Wangford Rural District extends along the southern bank of the river Waveney for 14 miles, with an average breadth of 6 miles, covering an area of 31,192 acres. In the river valley, there is a considerable area of marsh land, about a quarter of a mile broad, liable to be flooded after heavy rains. Away from the valley of the river the ground rises to an average hight of 80 feet above the sea level and the surface is undulating. The higher land is covered with a layer of the Great Chalky Boulder Clay, beneath which sands and gravel are found down to the level of the river bed. On the clay area ponds are numerous, and form the chief water supply of the District.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General is 3921, and is almost entirely agricultural, or dependent upon agriculture.

The Births registered in the District were 113—Males 52, Females 61. Of illegitimate children there were 16 births registered: 11 being Males and 5 Females.

The number of births is 39 more than last year and the highest total since 1913, in which year the record was 115. It is much to be regretted, however, that the number of illegitimate births is the highest ever recorded: nearly double of previous highest record.

The Deaths for the District numbered 49, two less than last year's and only two more than in 1918, which was the lowest recorded for at least 9 years. Of the 49 recorded, 29 were Males and 20 Females and of that number 20 were 65 years of age and over.

Infant Mortality, eight deaths occured in Infants under one year of age, 4 being Males and 4 Females, one (male) being illegitimate. This is a considerable decrease compared with the Infant Mortality last year.

Three of the deaths recorded were due to Premature Birth and none were due to any Zymotic Disease.

Notifiable Diseases.—The following cases were notified during the year:-

Diphtheria	...	...	13
Pneumonia	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
		Total	20

Five of the cases of Diphtheria occured in the same family at St. Laurence. Chicken Pox and Measles not being notifiable a comparison of the above record with those of previous years is difficult.

On account of Infectious Diseases the following Schools were closed, during the year:-

Southelmham St. Cross School closed from January 5th to January 19th owing to Scarlet Fever and Measles.

Ilketshall, St. Andrews Voluntary School closed from March 17th until after the Easter Holidays owing to Diphtheria.

Worlingham Voluntary School closed from June 1st to June 20th owing to Measles.

Sotterley Voluntary School closed from November 18th to December 13th owing to Chicken Pox.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—Seven cases were notified during the year and there were six deaths from this disease.

Cancer.—Nine deaths from this disease were notified during the year, the largest number for, at the least, the last 9 years.

The Water Supply in the district is dependent on open ponds at present, but in view of further Housing Accommodation some wells will, undoubtedly, be sunk.

Sewage.—The Pail System for the night-soil is employed.

Housing Accommodation.—There is no doubt, New Cottages are urgently needed practically all over the district

but the area is so large and the Villages so scattered that it is a very difficult matter to know how to draw up suitable plans. It has been arranged to erect a few cottages in some of the Villages as a start.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—These have been periodically inspected and found to be clean and well kept.

There are 17 Cowkeepers on the register and about 285 cows in milk.

The appended report of the Sanitary Inspector gives further information.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. BUSTEED,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.S.A. (LOND.)

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending 31st December, 1920.

WANGFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to report the following Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

Visits of Inspection of the District have been periodically made and Nuisances found existing have had my attention as well as the Complaints received by me, and in a number of cases I have been able to get same abated without serving notices in the usual way.

Notices to abate nuisances were served in 31 cases, including 4 cases of overcrowding, and in all the cases the notices were complied with.

9 Privies have been converted to the Sanitary Pail System, and the pits abolished.

I have made Periodical Inspections of the Cowsheds and Dairies in the district, found them to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 17 Cowsheds with approximately 285 Cows in milk kept.

The total number of houses disinfected after cases of Infectious Diseases and under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health was 14, viz :—13 cases of diphtheria and 1 case of scarlet fever.

1 New House (wooden) has been erected during the year.

Progress of building under the Housing Scheme is slow, at present in 4 parishes there are 12 houses nearing completion and 4 other houses commenced ; all the remaining sites under the scheme selected by the Housing Committee and approved of, have been acquired.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. EARL,

Inspector.